

York County Office
PO Box 532, 100 County Dr.
Yorktown, VA 23690
(757) 890-4940
www.yorkcounty.gov/vce

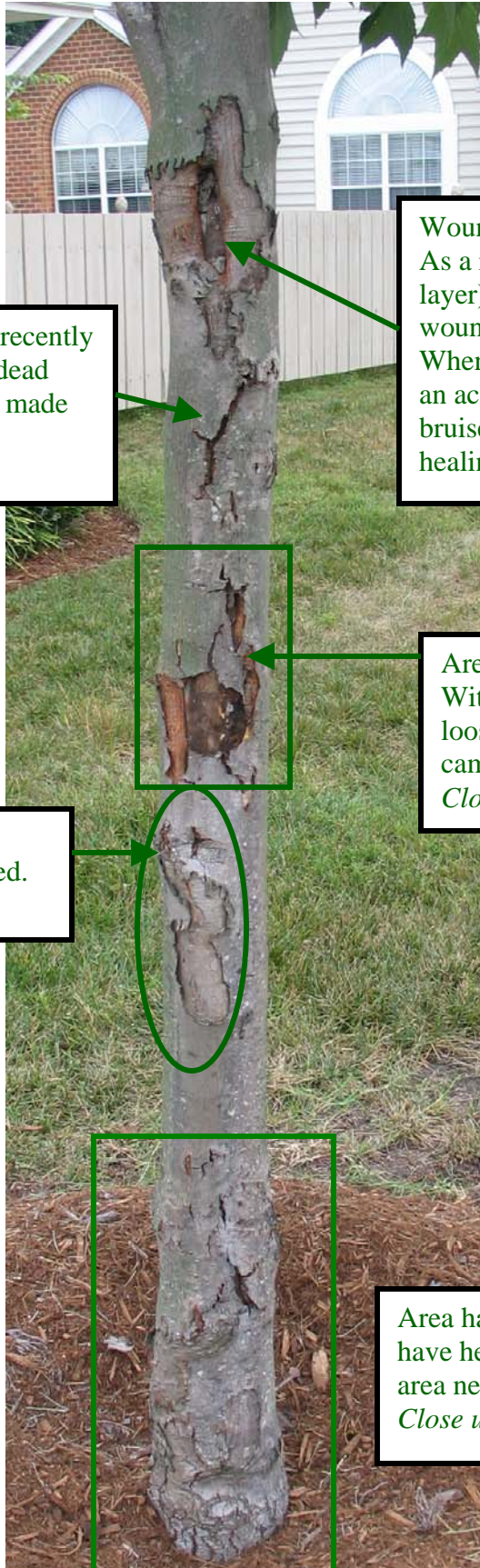
Repairing a Wounded Tree Trunk



Red maple (*Acer rubrum*)
with bark splitting and
other bark problems

Mulch with 2-3 inches.
Do not place on the bark
of plant. Mulch out, not
up.

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Dr. Mark A McCann, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; Dr. Alma Hobbs, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State, Petersburg.



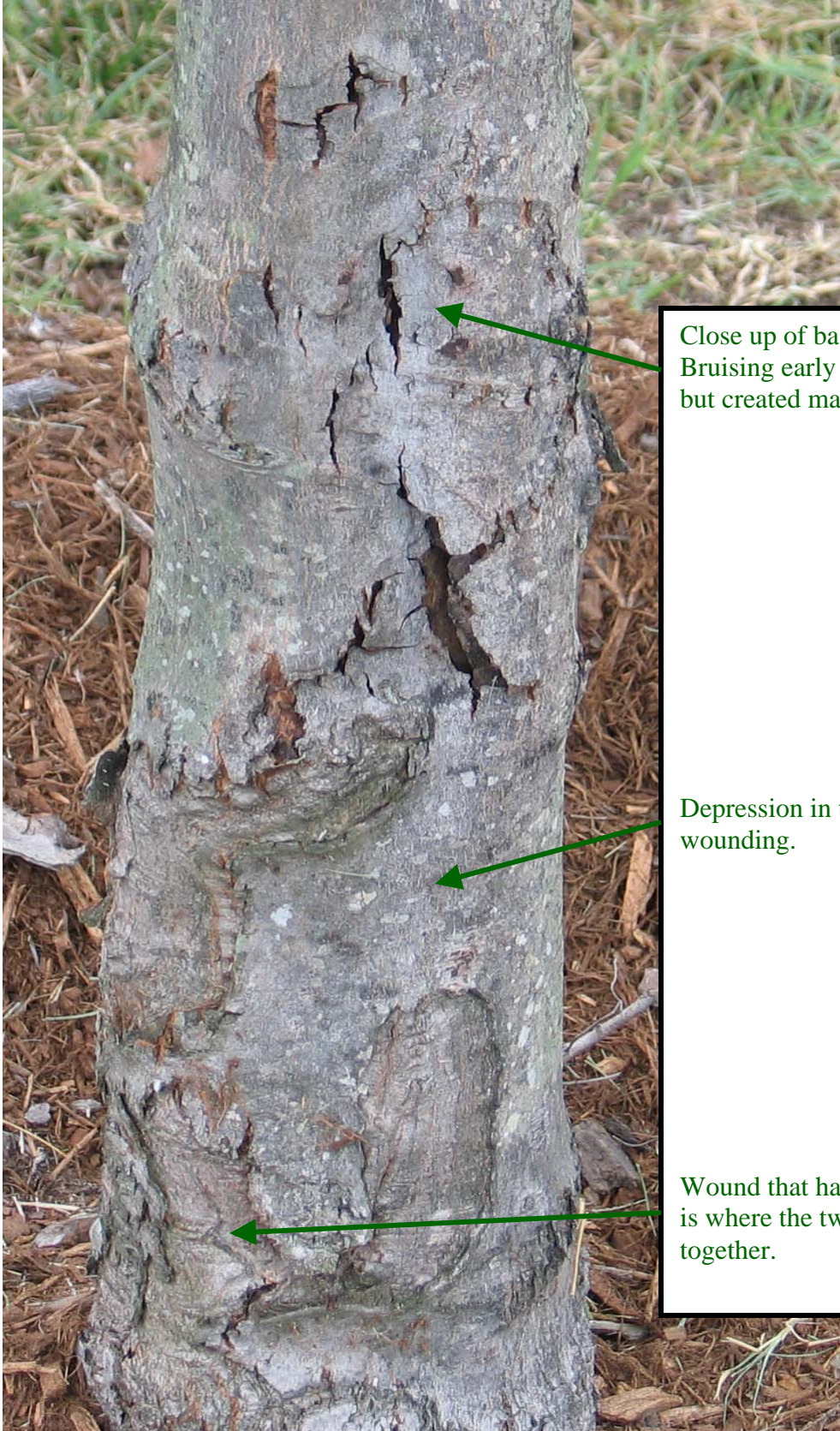
This wound has recently happened. The dead bark needs to be made clean at edges.

Wounding occurred early in the tree's life. As a result, the active growing area (cambial layer) on the plant is healing over the wound. When the plant is wounded early in life, it is an accepted practice to carefully remove the bruised bark in order to facilitate proper healing.

Area recently wounded. Bark is peeling off. With a sharp knife, remove the bark that is loosely attached. Remove bark to see the cambial layer (area of active growth).
Close up page 5

Wound is completely healed.
Close up page 4

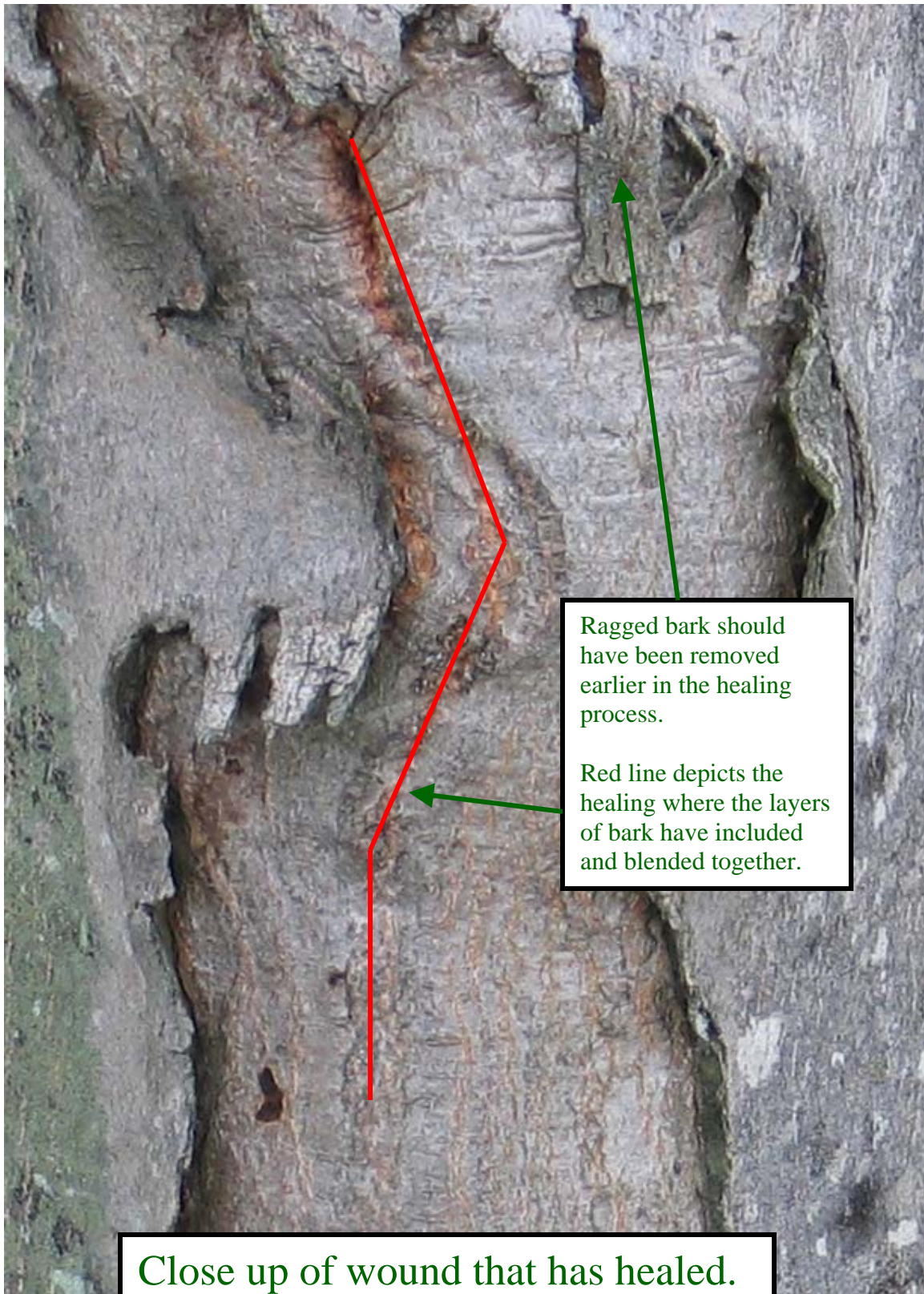
Area has many bruises but most have healed. A close watch of the area needs to continue.
Close up page 3



Close up of base of trunk.
Bruising early in the tree's life has healed
but created many disfigurations.

Depression in the bark as a result of
wounding.

Wound that has healed. The line in the bark
is where the two surfaces have come back
together.



Area needs to be cleaned with a sharp knife to remove dead bark allowing wound to heal quicker. Work along the dotted red line.

This dead bark needs to be carefully removed with a sharp knife and care not to inflict further wounding.

Area of healing. Plant is repairing itself by walling over. This cambial layer will wall over the wood.

wood

Remove
this

What do I do with this disfigured area?